HINTS

RESPECTING

HUMAN DISSECTIONS.

LONDON:

PRINTED IN THE YEAR

M.DCC.XCV.

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HINTS, &c.

MAN, from the nature of his ſtructure, is heir to innumerable evils. The very phænomena, common to all, of growth and diſſolution, render his frame liable to painful revolutions. That ſtructure, formed, as it is, with a wonderful chain of dependent actions of ſolids and fluids, with ramifications of veſſels that elude the moſt penetrating eye; is, at the ſame time, expoſed to all the viciſſitudes of climates and ſeaſons—to infections that float in the air—to poiſons from rabid animals *, and

* As ſoon as poſſible after being bit by a rabid animal, the part ſhould be waſhed with cold water, for a conſiderable length of time—ſo long, that after dropping a little

 black

and venomous reptiles; as well as from the deleterious juices * of different vegetables;

black ink into the wounded part, the blackneſs of the ink ſhall be totally waſhed off. This may be very conveniently done, by pouring water out of the ſpout of a kettle, ſuſpended high above the part the ſtream of water is directed upon: after this, no time ſhould be loſt in cutting out the bitten part with a ſharp knife or razor—And, as there have been inſtances, even after theſe precautions have been adopted, of fatal effects enſuing, it would be adviſeable to burn the wound with a hot iron, or with a cauſtic, ſuch as the lapis infernalis. In thoſe inſtances where the deleterious effects have ſupervened, after both cutting out the wound, and cauterizing it with a hot iron, it is probable, that the long fangs of the dog may have paſſed deeper than the knife or burning-iron has extended; and therefore, for the greater certainty of perfect ſafety, a ſtick of the lapis infernalis ſhould be pointed like a dog's tooth, and worked into the bottom and every cavity of the wound, after the uſe of all the other means of prevention.

* Laudanum, or tincture of opium, is not only ſwallowed ſometimes in large doſes through miſtake, but oftener deſignedly. The firſt effect is, ſleepineſs, and torpor gradually ſpreading over the ſyſtem, to almoſt univerſal inſenſibility It is difficult to convey any thing down the throat, wher the inſenſibility is conſiderable; and in that caſe, a ſyringe may be employed, to convey into the ſtomach a vomit o white vitriol, even to two drachms. From the moment that the accident of taking this poiſon is diſcovered, the inſenſibility muſt, if poſſible, be prevented, by rouſing

the

Continuation of Note, page 5.

The great object, however, ſhould be, to eradicate entirely all rabid infection. The human ſpecies, happily, does not communicate the diſeaſe like rabid animals; but he will carry infection in his habit much longer than them, before it exhibit its dreadful effects. Within twelve months, I have known two perſons die hydrophobic, about eleven months after the bite of the animal: Some Authors mention years; but, in general, the ſymptoms ſhew themſelves within a few weeks of the accident. Dogs, I believe, never exceed ſix weeks, and rarely as many days. In order, therefore, to eradicate the diſeaſe out of the kingdom for ever, nothing more ſeems requiſite, than, at any period of the year moſt convenient to dog-owners, to ſhut up every dog in the kingdom for ſeven weeks; in which time, every one having received rabid matter, would evince it, and of courſe be killed. The infection being thus annihilated, to prevent its entrance into the kingdom, in future, every ſhip having a dog on board, upon entering any Britiſh harbour, muſt ſubmit to the ſame reſtraint, of ſubjecting the dog to ſeven weeks quarantine. Thus, perhaps, at an expence under fifty pounds, Canine Madneſs might for ever be excluded from this maritime kingdom. If Cats could be confined to the ſame quarantine, it would be adviſeable; but, probably, this animal receives the infection only from the dog.

The above plan was ſuggeſted to me, I think, by my friend Dr. Bardſley.

bles †; and not leſs from exhalations ‡ of the ſoil he treads upon, and of the minerals § he digs from

the attention of the patient, and ſhaking him forcibly, to keep him from falling aſleep; for if ſleep can be prevented, death will not enſue.

† I think it is Mr. Thickneſſe, in his Travels through Spain, who deſcribes a pictureſque mode of travelling he adopted in the leſs frequented provinces of this kingdom, where he might occaſionally meet with wild fruits, without being able to aſcertain their ſalubrity. His chaiſe was drawn by a mule, on whoſe back was ſeated a monkey, dreſſed out like a poſtillion: whenever he wanted to aſcertain the ſafety of eating any fruit or vegetable with which he was unacquainted, he applied to the monkey; and whatever this diverting animal choſe to eat or refuſe, his maſter did the ſame, and by this precaution ſuffered no injury.

‡ In ſuffocation by noxious vapours, damps, or the air of pits, the perſon ſhould be removed into freſh air, and cold water ſhould be repeatedly thrown upon the face, drying the body at intervals. The ſame plan may be adopted in apparent death from lightning—with the addition of ſlight electrical ſhocks, if a machine can be procured.

§ Arſenic and Laudanum are the moſt general poiſons made uſe of by perſons who wiſh to deſtroy themſelves; and it is hence proper that the means of prevention ſhould be as generally known.—Arſenic itſelf, when taken into the ſtomach, is apt to excite vomiting, but not always. Whether this effect be produced, or otherwiſe, it would

from under him. Numerous and varied as are theſe ſources of deſtruction, there are others, which, if not equally fatal, are not leſs painful; from fractures, wounds, and a thouſand accidents to which he is expoſed; and they all uniformly prove, that Man is a frail being, with inceſſant claims on humanity for ſuccour.

Of the various ſtations which the human character aſſumes, one of the moſt ſublime is that wherein a creature preſumes to interpret the will of the Creator. It was hence natural, in the infancy of ſcience, when the anatomical ſtructure of the body, and the action of morbid powers, were equally unknown, to apply to the Miniſters of the Divinity for relief: hence Prieſts

be adviſeable to promote full vomiting as ſoon as poſſible. The quickeſt and eaſieſt vomit is white vitriol; and in order to expedite the operation, a drachm at leaſt, diſſolved in water or any fluid, may be given. Arſenic being heavy, and liable to get entangled in the rugæ of the ſtomach, is very difficult to be extricated; but whatever the quantity is that may be evacuated, in that proportion is the danger of life diminiſhed. The ſtomach ſhould be well ſupplied with gruel, barley water, or ſome ſoft mucillaginous drink, with a quarter of an ounce of liver of ſulphur (hepar ſulphuris) diſſolved in each pint or quart of fluid, as liver of ſulphur tends to decompoſe the arſenic, and renders it milder in its effect.

officiated

officiated in the temples and public places, in a two-fold capacity; till ſcience in general, and the hiſtory of diſeaſes in particular, became more univerſally cultivated, and better underſtood; and the medical art conſtituted a diſtinct profeſſion, in utility and dignity, inferior to none. Its object is, to aid human miſery of every ſpecies to which human imbecility is prone. It includes, not only an endeavour to remove diſeaſe and pain of body, but alſo to comfort the afflicted minds of the patient and of his deareſt connections; and, even in the melancholy period, when ſcience and ſolicitude are equally fruitleſs, to ſoften that dread ſeparation which each individual is deſtined to undergo.

To merit and ſuſtain this eulogy, various branches of ſcience muſt be cultivated, and particularly Anatomy, which implies a knowledge of the conſtituent parts of the human body, and of its eſſential functions. No diſſection of the brute can convey this knowledge, becauſe Man differs in his organization from every other animal; nor can any delineation of parts, by drawings or prints, ſuffice. The moſt ingenious capacity, after the niceſt exa-

mination

mination of the plan of a building, cannot complete the edifice; nor can the human ſtructure be known by any other medium than diſſection of the human body. Without a knowledge of the parts, the means of remedying the defects incidental to thoſe parts, when under diſeaſe, muſt ever be deficient. As the moſt ingenious artiſt, if ignorant of the parts of a compound machine, is incapable of rectifying or reſtoring its movements; and no machine is ſo complicated as the human ſyſtem; conſequently, anatomical knowledge is eſſential to medical ſcience in general.

This fact is indubitably eſtabliſhed in the mind of every enlightened man: Nevertheleſs, in the preſent year, a Bill, entitled *the Dead Body Bill*, was brought into Parliament, and ſupported by ſome of its Members; calculated to augment the impediments to anatomical knowledge, by increaſing fines and penalties on procuring dead bodies! By a perverſion of language, this barbarous, becauſe unſcientific Bill, was ſupported under a plea of humanity!—as if it were inhuman to acquire that knowledge which enables one man to remove or mitigate the miſeries of another!

Could

Could this knowledge be annihilated by fines and penalties, what would be the conſequence to one of theſe Senators, were he accidentally to break a leg, or fracture the ſkull? In his anguiſh, would he not regret the want of that knowledge he had contributed to prevent or impede?

Or, were an affectionate wife, perhaps not formed ſo favourably for parturition as moſt of her ſex, in her agony, to demand the aid of experience—humanity, weeping over human woe, muſt turn aſide her dejected countenance; for periſh muſt the miſerable object under the hand of ignorance.

Not in theſe inſtances alone, but in every ſtep of life, from childhood to old age, the knowledge of Anatomy is eſſential to human comfort; and to prevent the acquiſition of this knowledge, is an act of inhumanity: it is a *felo de ſe* of individual felicity.

In a political view, it would certainly be improvident, as the ſtudent of the healing art would hence be compelled to travel to a foreign country, to acquire that knowledge which is

denied

denied him in his own; and probably France would again become the centre of ſurgical knowledge, if not of medical ſcience.

Indeed, the ſenſible part of the community have been ſo fully convinced of the neceſſity of human diſſection, that, inſtead of augmenting fines and puniſhments, to prevent the practice of ſtealing dead bodies, the humane Wilberforce brought a Bill into Parliament a few years ago, the object of which was, I think, to ſubject malefactors, who ſhould ſuffer death by the ſentence of the law, to diſſection. This Bill was rejected by the Houſe of Lords, under a plea, that the terror of diſſection was greater, in the view of criminals, than death itſelf; and that, by indiſcriminate diſſection, this terror would be leſſened, and the dread of committing crimes be proportionably weakened.

If this reaſoning were well founded, it afforded the ſtrongeſt argument in favour of the Bill itſelf, as it regards Anatomy; for, if this ſuperſtitious terror were in general removed, the opportunities of diſſection would be facilitated and increaſed. It might at length, probably, be frequently

quently permitted by the friends of patients in general, and particularly of thoſe who might die in hoſpitals; but, whilſt this terror of diſſection is encouraged, it would be equally cruel and impracticable to introduce the practice on hoſpital patients, without ruining the character of the hoſpitals themſelves. Were patients to enter a ward under the terror of diſſection, the very dread of ſuch an event might ſhorten exiſtence, and prove equally inhuman and fatal. Nor do I know of any method of readily procuring dead bodies, in a free country, whilſt this dread pervades the community. The time may come, when the higher ranks may ſuffer the influence of reaſon to ſurmount every obſtacle, and permit more frequent diſſections among their equals, as the moſt effectual means of facilitating the practice among the lower individuals of the community.

Fortunately for the Medical Art, the Dead Body Bill alluded to, has not yet acquired the ſanction of Parliament: but, ſhould it ever paſs into a law, and the heavy fines and penalties, to be enacted by it, prevent the acquiſition of ſubjects for diſſection, a ſociety, to

counteract this difficulty, might be inſtituted, the members of which ſhould engage, that each ſhould be diſſected on deceaſe. As the Faculty are peculiarly intereſted in the promotion of anatomical knowledge, ſuch a ſociety ſhould be firſt formed among themſelves.

One might be led to conclude, by the care taken of dead bodies, and the pomp adopted to convey them, "food for worms," that they were imagined to riſe identically again, and inherit immortality. At this period of ſcience, however, it cannot but occur to ſuperficial obſervation, that the body is compounded of periſhable elements, of thoſe ſubſtances which it daily takes in for its nouriſhment; and therefore, on this ground, it would be as rational to conſecrate a dead cow, a calf, or any other food on which the body had lived, and by which it had grown.

To refine on this idea, it would become an inveſtigation of the Phyſiologiſt, rather than of the Undertaker or Herald, to give to the deceaſed the proper funereal accompaniments. Thus, to an Alderman or Common Council-

man,

man, might be added a turbot or a turtle, or perhaps a ſurloin: to a fine lady we ſhould ſelect chicks and ſyllabubs; and ſo on *ad infinitum*, agreeably to previous habit, conſtitution, or rank; and, doubtleſs, each of theſe are as likely for returning life, as their quondam maſters and miſtreſſes who had fed on them.

Although this might be attended with a revolution in Heraldry and Church Hiſtory, it would have one good effect on the ſpectator among the tombs, as he might immediately recognize the rank and character of the deceaſed by the emblematic *inſignia*, and thereby even aſcertain the cauſes of death. On a tomb with a fluttering dove might be ſuggeſted, that within repoſed a tender love-ſick maid: by another, creſted with horns, he might be excited to pity or ridicule ſome unfortunate huſband; and, under a calapaſh and calapee, might lie dormant an Eaſt India Director, or even a Member of the Board of Controul.

It has been acknowledged, that, in medical experiments, the firſt eſſays ſhould be made

on the experimentaliſt. Storck tried his poiſons firſt on himſelf, and thereby acquired merited honour. The inſtitution already ſuggeſted, is, that the members of the Faculty ſhould unite in a ſociety to diſſect one another. At the firſt aſſociation, probably, deaths among themſelves might not be adequate to the demands of their numerous pupils; but, as the ſociety increaſed, there would be no doubt of a plentiful ſupply.

Upon entering into this ſociety, each member ſhould be bound; that, on his deceaſe, his body ſhall be diſpoſed of, agreeably to the deciſion of the ſociety at large, or of a committee appointed for that purpoſe.

It muſt be a ſingular pleaſure to the members of this ſociety to reflect, whilſt living, on the great uſe they will be of to the community after death; and that, however mankind may doubt of their utility prior to this event, none can heſitate afterwards to add ſuch a tribute of approbation. They would enjoy the pride and ſatisfaction of exemption from the common fate of being eaten by worms, theſe worms eaten by birds and fiſh, and theſe birds and

fiſhes

fiſhes eaten by their friends—a moſt horrid reflection!

The Eaſt and Weſt Indian might perhaps eſcape the earth-worm, from the greater rapacity of the crabs. Theſe crabs make excellent currie—which the living Eaſt and Weſt Indian devours with as much eagerneſs as the crabs devoured the defunct!

Too many perſons, indeed, meet a premature tomb in the watery element *, and become

* The directions given by the Humane Society for the recovery of drowned perſons, cannot be too generally diffuſed; and I ſhall therefore add here an abridgment of them.

1. Convey carefully the body, with the head raiſed, to the neareſt convenient houſe.
2. Strip, dry the body, and clean the mouth and noſtrils.
3. *Young children*—between two perſons in a hot bed.
4. *An adult*—Lay the body on a blanket or bed, and, in cold weather, near the fire: in warm ſeaſons, the air ſhould be freely admitted.
5. It is to be gently rubbed with flannel, ſprinkled with ſpirits; and a heated warm-pan, covered, may be lightly moved over the back and ſpine.

6. *To*

come food for the inhabitants of the turbulent ocean. Theſe, again, may furniſh the tables of ſurviving friends, whoſe refinement may trace, in a rich cod's head, the lineaments of ſome honeſt tar*; or, in the delicate whiting,

or

6. *To reſtore breathing*—Introduce the pipe of a pair of bellows (when no apparatus) into one noſtril; the other, with the mouth, cloſed—Inflate the lungs till the breaſt be a little raiſed; the mouth and noſtrils muſt then be let free. Repeat this proceſs till *life* appear.
7. *Tobacco ſmoke* is to be thrown gently into the fundament, with a proper inſtrument—or the bowl of a pipe covered, ſo as to defend the mouth of the aſſiſtant.
8. The breaſt to be fomented with hot ſpirits—if no ſigns of life appear, the warm bath, or hot bricks, &c.
9. Electricity early employed by a medical aſſiſtant.

* The Writer of this performance was poſſeſſed of the jaw of a ſhark, that, during the bathing in the ſea, of ſome ſailors, ſeized upon the arm of one of them, and tore it from his body. The remains of the unfortunate ſeaman were brought on board; ſoon after which he expired.—A ſurviving ſailor, who had entertained a ſingular eſteem for the deceaſed, vowed that his friend ſhould be buried with all his limbs, and inſtantly ſtripped, and jumped into the ſea with a drawn knife in his hand. The ſhark continued to wallow near the ſhip; and the ſailor, who

was

or gelatinous maid, ſome *love-ſick* female †, who might have preferred the cryſtal grave to ſurviving the diſappointment of an ardent but ſlighted affection!—whilſt, in the remora, or more brilliant king-fiſh, ſome African merchant,

was an expert ſwimmer, dived under the belly of the ſhark, into which he plunged his knife. The ſtroke was renewed; and at length the ſhark, exhauſted by the loſs of blood, was drawn to the ſhip, and the arm of the deceaſed taken from his ſtomach. The limb was then ſewed up in canvas with the deceaſed ſailor, and decently committed to the waves, after the uſual funeral ceremonies.

† Labat, who ſays that the Caribs eat human fleſh, adds, that they prefer that of an Engliſhman to a Frenchman or Spaniard, as being more delicate and palatable. The ſharks, according to this author, give the Engliſh Nation the ſame preference. Nouv. Voyage aux Iſles, t. 1, ch. 20, p. 470.—He attributes this preference to the ſtronger perſpiration of the Engliſh, and not to the whiteneſs of their ſkin, for which they have been long diſtinguiſhed from other Nations. In the cruſades, when people from every part of Europe were aſſembled together, the Engliſh were remarked for the whiteneſs of their hands; in which reſpect they ſtill excell all the world.

The Author of Hiſtoire Morale des Iſles Antilles, ch. 21, p. 537, ſpeaking of the Caribs, ſays, "Et diſent "que les François ſont les plus delicats, et les Eſpagnols "les plus durs."—In Sumatra, the ſoles of the feet and palms

chant, or wealthy planter, might recognize the agonizing fibres of a negroe-ſlave, forcibly torn from native land and every endearing connection, to contribute, whether living or dead, to their luxury and refinement * !

palms of the hands are preferred. Phil. Tranſ. v. 6, p. 168. —Martyr ſays, the Caribs preferred the legs and thighs, but never eat any part of women or girls. The dogs employed by the Spaniards to hunt the Indians, paid the ſame deference to the female ſex. Rech. Philoſ. v. 1, p. 226.

Antonio de Herrera, in his firſt Decade, relates, that the famous dog Barémel, whoſe inſtinct was ſingular, guarded a narrow paſs in the Iſland of Hiſpaniola; and that, one day, an Indian woman, being deſirous of paſſing by him, addreſſed him thus: "Seignior Dog, do not "hurt me; I carry this letter to the Chriſtians." He adds, that "the dog immediately ſmelled at her, p——d "upon her, and ſuffered her to paſs without injury." Boſſu's Travels, v. 1, p. 11, n. Rech. Philoſ. ſur les Amer. v. 1, p. 78, n. Martyr de Nove Orbe, dec. 1, l. 3, p. 23.

* It is ſaid, that, from the fatality attending ſlave-ſhips, crowds of fiſh purſue them with ſingular avidity, in order to feaſt upon the poor objects who may die, and be thrown overboard into the ſea. Barbot, in his Guinea (ch. 17, p. 227), ſpecifies ſome of theſe fiſh that are more particularly fond of the vileſt part of the poor ſlave; and *delicately* adds, "They are nevertheleſs tolerably good "meat, when well dreſſed and ſeaſoned."

What

What an intellectual enjoyment muſt theſe Gentlemen of the Faculty experience, when, inſtead of having their minds embittered with ſuch cannibal ideas, they view, in diſtant, but true perſpective, the noble ends they gratify! What a luxury to hope, that, one day, another Monro or Cruikſhank may be exhibiting to wondering ſpectators the beauties of their lymphatics!—a future Abernethy, a bladder with calculi!—and a ſubſequent Wathen, or Ware, elucidating an optic nerve!

That the ſociety I have been recommending will increaſe beyond the demand of its members, cannot be doubted, if we conſider that the metropolis nouriſhes with its vitals no leſs than 100 regular Phyſicians, 1000 Corporation Surgeons *, and 1000 Hall Members, beſides

* It is not unuſual in Societies, to be at the expence of painting each member who has paſſed the chair as Preſident. This muſt afford an excellent hint to the Maſter, Wardens, and Corporation of Surgeons, who might refine and improve upon it. But, to act with conſiſtency to the ſurgical art, inſtead of a painting, the ſkeleton of each Maſter might be ſuſpended in the great Hall of the Corporation, where the Maſters might thus become

 uſeful

beſides irregulars, innumerable as the ſands of the ſea. When this period ſhall arrive, the ſupernumerary ſubjects may be diſpoſed of to other learned ſeminaries, or to pupils, at a certain fixed price; and the profits, which muſt be conſiderable, appropriated to the Society for the Relief of the Widows of Medical Men. Then will the honour of this eſtabliſhment become the theme of public praiſe and private gratitude. We read of female Hindoos dying for their huſbands; but here the Faculty devote themſelves as martyrs for their widows. Leſt, however, the wives, from pure gratitude, might be induced, by over-kindneſs, to haſten this generous cataſtrophe of their huſbands, it muſt be a part of the plan of the ſociety to make their wives female members; more eſpe-

uſeful to the young members, to whom, perhaps, they had before been of none. A diſtinction ſo great muſt certainly produce numerous rival candidates, and perhaps even inſtigate the Wardens to aſpire to the ſame honour—an honour, however, that ſhould be invariably conferred upon Maſters alone, unleſs the friends of the candidate Warden could prove that the defunct had made ſome uſeful diſcovery in the art. A ſtimulus of this kind might animate exertion in more ways than eating and drinking at Hall Feaſts.

cially

cially as ſubjects of this ſex may be wanted in the diſſecting theatre, more than, perhaps, coveted at home; and certainly nothing can be a ſweeter death than dying for ſurviving widows, and perhaps for the benefit of future wives; and it is alſo well known that the tender ſex, at leaſt when eternally ſilent, will raiſe more money than the other ſex.

Here, again, the intellectual pleaſures muſt be highly gratified. In one vial, hermetically ſealed, might be incloſed the ſuſceptible female heart, that fluttered and changed at every vow. Another preparation might exhibit the opacity of a once rolling and lucid eye, and force upon reflection the changeableneſs of all ſublunary objects: and ſtill more ſedative to ſober thought would the widower feel himſelf in his arm-chair, with a pipe, and a neat ſtopper made of the fore-finger * of his dear diſſected rib;

* Frazier ſays, that the Chileſe make uſe of the bones of their captives for flutes, and of their ſkulls for diſhes to drink out of; p. 64. Father Hennepin makes the ſame obſervation, in his Hiſtory of a New Diſcovery—So, likewiſe, does Gem. Careri, Voy. du tour du Monde, t. 5, ch. 6,

rib; and the tongue dried, and dormant, under a bell-glaſs, fixed on a mahogany frame—a tongue which, now ſilent, heretofore never was at reſt.

ch. 6, p. 68; and the Jeſuit's Letters by Lochman, v. 1, p. 94. The King of the Huns, in combat, killed the King of Yve-chi, whoſe ſkull was uſed as a veſſel upon all grand ceremonies: Hiſt. Anc. des Peuples de l'Europe, t. 3. Careri ſays, he ſaw St. John the Baptiſt's ſkull at the Greek Mount at Jeruſalem, which, he ſays, he worſhipped; l. 1, ch. 9. And Abbé Fortis, in his Dalmatia, mentions, that the iſlanders of Arbe, in the Gulph of Quærnaro, pretend to poſſeſs the heads of Shadrech, Meſhech, and Abednego; p. 348. Lucius Florus relates, that the Thracians made uſe of the ſkulls of their captives, to drink libations to the gods; l. 3, ch. 4.—All which evince, that bones have long been employed in very intereſting and important offices, inſtead of being buried, and loſt to the community.

Valuable, indeed, muſt have been the ſkull of the barbarian, when the Engliſh have even offered one hundred pounds for the ſcalp only of an Indian: (Hutchinſon's Hiſtory of the Colony of Maſſachuſets Bay.) It may be preſumed, that the whole head of even a learned European would not ſell for half the ſum of the forehead only of an Iroquois, and which is three times more than the purchaſe of a whole Heſſian, who was eſtimated, during the American war, at thirty pounds; and, paltry as the ſum is, ſome Members in Parliament had the hardineſs to oppoſe even this cheap purchaſe.

The

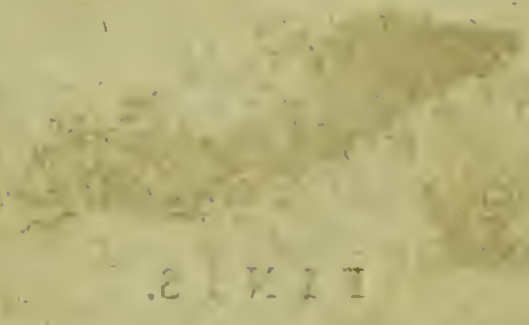
The ſociety thus conſtituted, and, of courſe, ſupplying ſupernumerary ſubjects, whoſe members, naturally ſhocked at the ignoble practice of burial, would turn their attention to make the beſt uſe of theſe ſupernumeraries, and would of courſe advert to the economical invention of turning huſbands and wives into candles and ſoap, by a chymical proceſs *. This

* Accident has afforded many inſtances, in proof of animal ſubſtances being changed into a waxy matter, not unlike ſperma ceti, which is capable of making candles and ſoap. In conſequence of this matter reſembling ſperma ceti recently found in the church-yard of the Innocents at Paris, M. Fourcroy has given an analyſis of it, in the eighth volume of the Annales de Chemie, Memoir the ſecond. The method of effecting this change with facility, is ſince deſcribed by Mr. Gibbes, in the Philoſophical Tranſactions of London. In June he buried a cow, in a place where, from the riſing of a river to ſupply a mill twice a day, it was ſubmitted to the action of running water. On taking this cow up in December, he found, that where the water was conſtantly running over it, there it was changed into a fatty ſubſtance; but, where the water which had acted on the matter could not paſs off, a very diſagreeable ſmell was ſenſible, and the fleſh was not ſo much changed. A piece of this cow, that was perfectly lean, was ſtruck through with a ſtick, and faſtened to the bottom of the river: this piece was perfectly changed into

This muſt be not only highly beneficial to the revenue, and ſerve the poor in general, but doubtleſs afford ſingular elucidation to many dark and knotty points in Philoſophy; for, what could withſtand the brilliancy of a young widow turned into an illuminated chandelier, with ſtreams of vivid light from fingers and toes, and ſplendour to dazzle from the eyes? Perhaps, the glimmerings of an old woman might not pay for labour, or at the leaſt might light the kitchen-fire, or the tobacco-pipe alluded to; but this loſs would be refunded by the ſoap manufactured from an old ſhrew, where no leys would be re-

into a fat matter, and had loſt its offenſive ſmell. He adds, " I have brought about this change in a much " ſhorter time, in the following manner: I took three " lean pieces of mutton, and poured on them the three " mineral acids; and I perceived, that, at the end of three " days, each was much altered: that in the nitrous acid " was much ſoftened, and, on ſeparating the acid from " it, I found it to be in exactly the ſame ſtate with that " which I had before got from the water; that in the mu- " riatic acid was not, in that time, ſo much altered; the " vitriolic acid had turned the other black." See Appendix to the Critical Review, new Arrangement, vol. 13, p. 536.

quiſite

quiſite to heighten its aſperity and abſterging powers—whilſt the almond ſoftneſs of a once mild and bland companion would mollify the ſkin, and ſupple the pores. And with this I waſh my hands off the intereſting ſubject.

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